

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 21 with the following paragraph:

The invention in one aspect involves the finding that pyrimidine (Py) rich and preferably thymidine (T) rich nucleic acids as well as nucleic acids that contain TG dinucleotide motifs are effective in mediating immune stimulatory effects. It was known in the prior art that CpG containing nucleic acids are therapeutic and prophylactic compositions that stimulate the immune system to treat cancer, infectious diseases, allergy, asthma and other disorders and to help protect against opportunistic infections following cancer chemotherapies. The strong yet balanced, cellular and humoral immune responses that result from CpG stimulation reflect the body's own natural defense system against invading pathogens and cancerous cells. CpG sequences, while relatively rare in human DNA are commonly found in the DNA of infectious organisms such as bacteria. The human immune system has apparently evolved to recognize CpG sequences as an early warning sign of infection, and to initiate an immediate and powerful immune response against invading pathogens without causing adverse reactions frequently seen with other immune stimulatory agents. Thus CpG containing nucleic acids, relying on this innate immune defense mechanism, can utilize a unique and natural pathway for immune therapy. The effects of CpG nucleic acids on immune modulation were discovered by the inventor of the instant patent application and have been described extensively in co-pending patent applications, such as U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos: 08/386,063 filed on 02/07/95, now US Patent No. 6,194,388 (and related PCT US95/01570); 08/738,652 filed on 10/30/96, now US Patent No. 6,207,646; 08/960,774 filed on 10/30/97, now US Patent No. 6,239,116 (and related PCT/US97/19791, WO 98/18810); 09/191,170 filed on 11/13/98, now US Patent No. 6,429,199; 09/030,701 filed on 02/25/98, now US Patent No. 6,214,806 (and related PCT/US98/03678; 09/082,649 filed on 05/20/98, now US Patent No. 6,339,068 (and related PCT/US98/10408); 09/325,193 filed on 06/03/99, now US Patent No. 6,405,705 (and related PCT/US98/04703); 09/286,098 filed on 04/02/99, now US Patent No. 6,218,371 (and related PCT/US99/07335); 09/306,281 filed on 05/06/99 (and related PCT/US99/09863). The entire contents of each of these patents and patent applications is hereby incorporated by reference.